

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

MARCH 13, 2007

On January 16, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved a Countywide Energy and Environmental Policy that includes the Environmental Stewardship Program. The primary goal of this program is to measure and reduce the County's "environmental footprint" including the amount of air pollutants (e.g., greenhouse gases) produced through direct and indirect County operations.

The State of California's Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), which the County supported, was signed into law in 2006. It requires that production of greenhouse gases in California be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020 – an estimated 30 percent total reduction. The use of personally owned vehicles represents a significant contribution to the production of greenhouse gases, through the combustion of fossil fuels such as gasoline.

Approximately 90,000 County employees commute to work. Some employees' commutes are at distances up to and exceeding 60 miles one way. Although many County employees use public transportation for their commute and more should be encouraged to do so, most employees drive personally owned vehicles, therefore contributing to the production of greenhouse gases.

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As the largest employer in Southern California, Los Angeles County has the opportunity to truly make an impact on the environmental wellbeing of our region. If more County employees that commute in personally owned vehicles were to utilize energy efficient vehicles or public transportation, this would significantly reduce the production of greenhouse gases which is consistent with the County's Energy and Environmental Policy and would assist the County in meeting its obligations under State Law AB 32.

In recent years, automobile manufacturers have produced a range of "green" products including hybrid, low emissions, and ultra low emissions vehicles. Hybrid vehicles, powered by both gasoline and electricity, produce fewer emissions and typically get 45 miles per gallon of gasoline or better. New, smaller, low or ultra low emission vehicles are very fuel efficient, averaging 30 to 40 miles per gallon of gasoline.

Despite the well established environmental benefits of these vehicles, incentives to purchase "green" vehicles are waning. Federal tax credit for hybrids and low emission vehicles are being reduced, and the State of California is no longer issuing "High Occupancy Vehicle" stickers which allowed hybrid vehicles carpool lane access. In light of the decline of such incentives, it falls upon each individual municipality, business and organization to come up with their own program to create incentives for their employees to drive "green" vehicles. Los Angeles County should lead the way with an incentive program of our own.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Administrative Office, with assistance from the Internal Services Department and the County's Energy and Environmental Team, to develop recommendations that encourage County employees to purchase and use "green" vehicles or use public transportation for their commute to work and report back to the Board within 90 days.

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